

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION**

CADENCE BANK,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Case No. 4:25-cv-00039-MTS
	)	
EPIC STRATEGIES, LLC, <i>et al.</i> ,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on review of Defendant Nathan Peterson’s Notice of Removal. *See Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 559 U.S. 77, 94 (2010) (discussing a federal court’s “independent obligation to determine whether subject-matter jurisdiction exists”). Peterson’s Notice has at least two deficiencies.\* *First*, the Notice does not establish the citizenship of any of the Defendant limited liability companies. *See GMAC Com. Credit LLC v. Dillard Dep’t Stores, Inc.*, 357 F.3d 827, 829 (8th Cir. 2004) (holding an LLC’s citizenship is that of its members for diversity jurisdiction purposes); *James v. Moore*, 1:23-cv-00115-SNLJ, 2023 WL 4350944, at \*1 (E.D. Mo. July 5, 2023) (noting that the court could “be assured of its own jurisdiction” only when the party with the burden to establish subject matter jurisdiction “identif[ied] each of the individual members of the defendant

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\* This Memorandum and Order does not address procedural defects to removal that may be present here. *See Holbein v. TAW Enterprises, Inc.*, 983 F.3d 1049, 1053 (8th Cir. 2020) (en banc) (explaining difference between defects that leave the district court without subject matter jurisdiction, which cannot be waived, and those objections to removal based on defects other than lack of subject matter jurisdiction, which can be waived).

LLC and specifically plead[ed] the state of their citizenship”); *see also, e.g., Smith v. Wesley*, 4:23-cv-01282-MTS, 2023 WL 6639490, at \*1 (E.D. Mo. Oct. 12, 2023) (finding removing defendant failed to establish diversity jurisdiction under § 1332(a) when he failed to identify LLC’s members).

*Second*, Peterson’s Notice fails to establish that the parties were diverse “both when the plaintiff initiate[d] the action in state court and when the defendant file[d] the notice of removal in federal court.” *Chavez-Lavagnino v. Motivation Educ. Training, Inc.*, 714 F.3d 1055, 1056 (8th Cir. 2013); *accord Reece v. Bank of N.Y. Mellon*, 760 F.3d 771, 777 (8th Cir. 2014) (finding removal defective because defendant’s notice failed to specify party’s citizenship “when the suit was commenced”); *see also, e.g., Jackson v. Allen*, 132 U.S. 27, 34 (1889) (reversing the judgment of the court below “with directions to remand to the state court” because “the citizenship of the parties at the commencement of the actions, as well as at the time the petitions for removal were filed, was not sufficiently shown”).

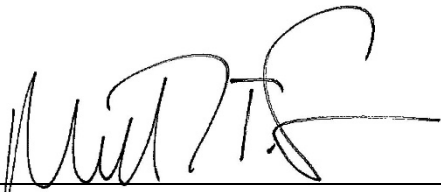
For at least these reasons, Peterson’s Notice fails to carry his burden of establishing the Court’s subject matter jurisdiction. *See Magee v. United States*, 9 F.4th 675, 680 (8th Cir. 2021) (explaining that the “burden of proving the existence of subject matter jurisdiction rests with the party invoking federal jurisdiction”). If Peterson can establish this Court’s subject matter jurisdiction, he must file an amended notice of removal doing so. *See City of St. Louis v. Bindan Corp.*, 295 F.R.D. 392, 395 (E.D. Mo. 2013) (discussing the circumstances under which a party may amend its notice of removal). Failure to do so will result in remand. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c) (“If at any time before final judgment it

appears that the district court lacks subject matter jurisdiction, the case shall be remanded.”).

Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, no later than **Friday, January 24, 2025**, Defendant Peterson must file an amended notice of removal that establishes this Court’s subject matter jurisdiction. Failure to do so will result in the remand of this action.

Dated this 14th day of January 2025.

  
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MATTHEW T. SCHELP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE